

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4073

UNCLAS NICOSIA 2209

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CY, (PELAGHIAS, GEORGE)

SUBJ: FY 76 IV PROGRAM

REF: STATE 190822

1. BIO DATA: PELAGHIAS BORN NICOSIA AUGUST 21, 1924. SECONDARY EDUCATION AT THE PANCYPRIAN GYMNASIUM AND AMERICAN ACADEMY; ENTERED KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON UNIVERSITY, IN 1945, GRADUATING 1948 WITH LLB. ATTENDED GRAY'S INN, LONDON, FOR LEGAL STUDIES AND WAS CALLED TO CYPRUS BAR IN 1951. DURING UNIVERSITY PERIOD HE WAS ON EXECUTIVE OF NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND ATTENDED SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCES AS NUS REPRESENTATIVE. HE ALSO ATTENDED, AT SORBONNE, PARIS, A SHORT COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. IN 1953 HE ENTERED ATHENS UNIVERSITY AND TOOK LLB DEGREE IN 1956.

2. IN 1956 HE JOINED DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF GREECE AND WAS POSTED BY KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT TO PRAGUE, WHERE HE AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR U. ALEXIS JOHNSON BECAME FRIENDS.

3. IN 1959 HE RESUMED PRACTICE AS LAWYER IN CYPRUS. IN 1961 HE WAS APPOINTED COUSELLOR IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CYPRUS. IN 1964 HE WAS PROMOTED TO MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY AND IN 1970 WAS GIVEN RANK OF AMBASSADOR. IN 1975 HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EQUIVALENT TO BRITISH SYSTEM'S PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY.

4. DURING SERVICE IN MINISTRY, HE ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT MAKARIOS TO OFFICIAL VISITS IN 64 COUNTRIES. HE WAS AMONG THE

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GUESTS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, DURING THE MAKARIOS STATE VISIT

IN 1962. SINCE THEN HE HAS KEPT CLOSE TIES WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ESPECIALLY WITH SECRETARY RUSK, SECRETARY ROGERS, UNDER-SECRETARY SISCO AND OTHERS. HE HAS ATTENDED MANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND THE SESSION OF UNGA. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF EXPERT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND HAS GIVEN LECTURES ON LINCOLN'S FOREIGN AND INTERNAL POLICIES. HE IS PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS COMMITTEE FOR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN CYPRUS.

5. PELAGHIAS HAS BEEN CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS FOR THE LAST 22 YEARS AND JOINED HIM IN EXILE IN JULY 1974 AND ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT ON VISITS TO DR. KISSINGER AT THAT TIME.

6. PELAGHIAS' IDEAS, ORIENTATION AND PHILOSOPHY ARE OF STRONG WESTERN DIRECTION. THOUGH EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED BY POSITION TAKEN BY THE WEST DURING 1974 EVENTS, NEVERTHELESS, PROFESSES HE HAS NOT LOST FAITH IN FORTHRIGHTNESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND IN DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF WESTERN WORLD.

7. MAIN INTEREST IN UPCOMING VISIT TO U.S. IS IN YOUTH AFFAIRS. HE WANTS CONTACT WITH UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS, PREFERABLY ON CAMPUS, AND TO SEE HOW "FOUNDATIONS FOR THE NEXT 200 YEARS OF LIFE IN THE USA ARE BUILT" AND ON WHAT PRINCIPLES NEW GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS WILL BE BROUGHT UP. HE ALSO HOPES TO MEET WITH OTHER LEADERS, INCLUDING GOVERNORS, SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN AND COMMUNITY LEADERS. HE IS INTERESTED IN OBSERVING CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES OF BOTH PARTIES. THOUGH HE HAS FREQUENTLY VISITED US IN PAST, HIS DUTIES ALWAYS CONFINED HIM TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

8. PELAGHIAS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE CHLOE. PREVIOUSLY TEACHER OF ENGLISH, SHE IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE INFANT WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF CYPRUS AND A MEMBER OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS OF CYPRUS. SHE HAS KEEN INTEREST IN INFANT WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS AND IN HOMES FOR WORKING WOMEN'S CHILDREN. SHE IS EAGER FOR CONTACT WITH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS WHEREVER SHE WILL BE VISITING WITH HER HUSBAND. BOTH FLUENT IN ENGLISH.

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